

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 OES-03 EUR-12 /048 R

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R 082255Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/FMRA

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HQ ADC ENT AFB CO/XPQDS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107960

E.O. 11652:ADS DECLASSIFY WHEN OPERATING RIGHTS CONTAINED

HEREIN HAVE BEEN GRANTED

TAGS:MILI, TGEN, SA

SUBJECT: BAKER-NUNN CAMERA SITE SURVEY

1. THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE'S AEROSPACE DEFENSE
COMMAND (ADC) IS DEVELOPING A WORLDWIDE SPACETRACKING
SYSTEM CONSISTING OF SENSORS AND SUPPORT FACILITIES
WHICH WILL COLLECTIVELY FUNCTION TO PROVIDE DATA ON MAN-
MADE OBJECTS IN SPACE. THE SPACETRACK SYSTEM NOW CONSISTS
OF AN OPERATIONS CENTER IN COLORADO SPRINGS AND SEVERAL
WIDELY DISPERSED SENSORS.

2. ONE TYPE OF OPTICAL SENSOR WHICH WILL BE A PART OF
THIS SYSTEM IS THE BAKER-NUNN CAMERA (CURRENTLY LOCATED
IN SAN VITO, ITALY, MT. JOHN, NEW ZEALAND AND SAND ISLAND,
HAWAII). SUCH CAMERAS ARE USED TO (1) TRACK THOSE
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OBJECTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT RADAR CROSS SECTION
OR TOO GREAT A RANGE CANNOT BE OBSERVED BY OTHER TYPE
SENSORS, (2) PROVIDE OBSERVATIONS FOR HIGHLY ACCURATE
ORBIT DETERMINATION OF SELECTED SATELLITES FOR SYSTEM

CALIBRATION, EVALUATION, AND QUALITY CONTROL, AND (3)
PROVIDE HIGHLY ACCURATE OBSERVATIONS ON SELECTED SATELLITES
OF PARTICULAR SCIENTIFIC INTEREST.

3. TO PROVIDE THE BEST OPERATIONAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE

BAKER-NUNN CAMERAS, RELOCATIONS ARE DESIRED WHICH WILL
PROVIDE OPTIMUM WEATHER CONDITIONS, NIGHT-SKY BRIGHTNESS,
AND OVERLAPPING COVERAGE OF SENSORS. OTHER LOCATIONS
IN ITALY ARE BEING PROPOSED FOR THE SAN VITO CAMERA, AND
IT IS DESIRED THAT THE SAND ISLAND CAMERA BE MOVED TO
EITHER IRAN OR SAUDI ARABIA. POSSIBLE SAUDI ARABIAN
LOCATIONS WOULD BE NEAR DHAHRAN OR AL HUFUF. PRIOR
TO MAKING FORMAL REQUEST TO SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT
TO PERMIT CAMERA SITE, SURVEYS ARE PROPOSED TO DETERMINE
OPERATIONAL SUITABILITY OF DHAHRAN/AL HUFUF. SHOULD
SITE SURVEY CULMINATE IN A DETERMINATION THAT ONE OF
THE LOCATIONS IS OPERATIONALLY DESIRABLE, A FORMAL
REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT TO EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW
DESCRIBING PROPOSAL FULLY AND PROVIDING BASIS FOR
MAKING APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENT. FOR PLANNING
PURPOSES, FACILITY WILL REQUIRE NO MORE THAN TWO ACRES
OF LAND AND 25-40 OPERATING PERSONNEL, DEPENDING UPON
HOW MUCH LOCAL US MILITARY SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE.
COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION OF CAMERA FACILITY BEING
POUCHED SEPARATELY.

4. SURVEY WILL REQUIRE BRINGING IN APPROXIMATELY 60
POUNDS OF HAND CARRIED EQUIPMENT WHICH IS US GOVERNMENT
OWNED AND WHICH WILL BE CARRIED OUT WHEN THE TEAM LEAVES.
THE EQUIPMENT CONSISTS OF 35 MM CAMERAS FOR SITE
PHOTOGRAPHS AND A QUESTAR TELESCOPE/PHOTOMULTIPLIER
TUBE/POWER SUPPLY PACKAGE FOR ASTRONOMICAL MEASUREMENTS.
APPROXIMATELY SIX MILITARY/DOD CIVILIAN PERSONNEL,
ALL US CITIZENS, WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAKE THE SURVEY.
ANTICIPATE THE TEAM LEADER TO BE NO HIGHER IN RANK THAN
COLONEL OR LT COLONEL. IF DESIRED, TEAM CAN REPORT TO
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EMBASSY UPON ENTERING/DEPARTING THE COUNTRY.

5. IF CAMERA IS INSTALLED, RAW TRACKING DATA WILL BE
MADE AVAILABLE TO SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES
UPON REQUEST. IN ADDITION, THE SITE WILL HONOR REQUESTS
FOR DATA AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS FROM HOST NATION ASTRONOMICAL
OBSERVATORIES, SOCIETIES, OR UNIVERSITIES ON A NON-
INTERFERENCE, NO COST BASIS.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY SEEK SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL
FOR SURVEYS WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FOLLOW-ON REQUESTS
WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON DHAHRAN OR ALL HUFUF SUITABILITY.
PROVIDED SURVEY PROPOSAL MEETS WITH SAUDI ACCEPTANCE,

FINALIZED TRAVEL DETAILS, INCLUDING NAMES OF SURVEY
PERSONNEL AND ITINERARY, WILL BE SUBMITTED TO USDAO FOR
OBTAINING EMBASSY CLEARANCE. ANTICIPATE SURVEY REQUIRE-
MENT FOR EARLY JULY 1975, WITH TWO DAYS NEEDED AT EACH
LOCATION. KISSINGER

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